

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD, CH, CA
SUBJECT: CANADA/CHINA JOINT TRADE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

REF: PEKING 967

1. PRESS RELEASE CONCERNING CANADA/CHINA JOINT TRADE
COMMITTEE DISCUSSION HELD IN PEKING MARCH 27-29 HAS JUST
BEEN RELEASED BY DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND
COMMERCE. NO REASON FOR DELAY IN ISSUING RELEASE WAS
GIVEN.

2. TEXT OF RELEASE FOLLOWS.

BEGIN QUOTE.

CANADA IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO INCREASE TRADE WITH
CHINA. JOINT TRADE DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD IN PEKING
MARCH 27TH TO 29TH UNDER THE CANADA/CHINA JOINT TRADE
COMMITTEE. THE CHINESE OUTLINED PRIORITY AREAS UNDER
THEIR CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH ENDS IN 1985. THEY
INDICATED THAT CANADIAN INDUSTRIES WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY
TO PARTICIPATE WHERE THEY ARE COMPETITIVE IN SUCH SECTORS
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AS OIL AND GAS, NON-FERROUS METALS, STEEL MILLS, HYDRO
POWER AND RAILWAYS. IN SOME CASES, THIS PARTICIPATION
COULD INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF COMPLETE PLANTS.

IT WAS ESTABLISHED THAT MISSIONS WOULD BE EXCHANGED
DURING 1978 FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS, PULP AND PAPER,
PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, SEEDS, AND NON-FERROUS METALS.

SINCE CANADA AND CHINA EXCHANGED DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION
IN 1970, SIGNIFICANT GROWTH HAS OCCURRED IN BILATERAL TRADE.
IN 1977 IT APPROACHED ONE HALF BILLION DOLLARS.
(CANADIAN EXPORTS 369 MILLION DOLLARS; CHINESE EXPORTS -
82 MILLION DOLLARS.) CHINA IS NOW CANADA'S LARGEST
MARKET FOR WHEAT AND OUR EXPORTS OF NON-GRAIN PRODUCTS
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HAVE DOUBLED SINCE 1970. CHINESE SALES TO CANADA HAVE
INCREASED FOURFOLD OVER THE SAME PERIOD ALTHOUGH THEIR
EXPORTS DID DECLINE IN 1977.

BOTH SIDES REAFFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO STRENGTHEN AND
DIVERSIFY TRADE. WHILE THE CHINESE DELEGATION, LED BY
MR. AN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE,
EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO SEE A MORE FAVOURABLE TRADE BALANCE,
THEY INDICATED THIS DESIRE WOULD NOT IMPEDE THEIR CON-
TINUED PURCHASE OF CANADIAN PRODUCTS. FOR THEIR PART THE
CHINESE INTEND TO BROADEN THEIR RANGE OF EXPORTS TO
CANADA.

DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, THE CANADIAN DELEGATION UNDER
MR. C.T. CHARLAND, ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER, INDUSTRY,
TRADE AND COMMERCE, MET WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF CHINESE
TRADING CORPORATIONS, THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, THE BANK
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OF CHINA, THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION, AND TECHIMPORT,
THE CHINESE CORPORATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPORTING OF

COMPLETE PLANTS, AND WITH OTHER TRADING CORPORATIONS AND
END-USER MINISTRIES.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE IS PLANNED FOR OTTAWA
IN 1979. END QUOTE. ENDERS

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